

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
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Keep the School on the Hill

Recent events have made an evaluation of the relationship between the nation's intelligence agencies and Middlebury College unavoidable. The National Security Agency's unsanctioned meeting to recruit Middlebury sophomores and juniors, Professor David Rosenberg's disclosure of C.I.A. attempts to recruit him as an agency informant, and the recent student protest against C.I.A. activities at the College, raise issues which the College cannot ignore.

A policy statement, issued either by the College or by the Community Council, is clearly in order. What we suggest is that any such statement be based not on the private political opinions of any group within the Middlebury community, but on the interests of the College as a liberal arts institution. It is with this in mind that we offer the following proposals for community consideration.

First and foremost, it is essential that the College disavow any connection, formal or informal, between the intelligence agencies and individual faculty members or students. The prospect of campus surveillance would obstruct the primary objective of the College - free academic inquiry. For this reason, Middlebury should exercise its prerogative and say no to the new program outlined by the N.S.A. in its meeting with the Russian majors in Voter Hall, and no to the recruitment of College professors by the C.I.A.

Secondly, the College should prohibit C.I.A. and N.S.A. recruitment of Middlebury seniors on the campus itself. In order to be eligible to recruit on the campus, College policy requires that an organization be an equal-opportunity employer; the C.I.A. and the N.S.A., with their exclusion of foreigners, clearly violate this condition.

That this discriminatory policy may be justified by the nature of the intelligence agencies's objectives, is not the issue. Middlebury College has its own interests as an institution of liberal education, and primary among these is its obligation to examine critically the assumptions upon which our society is based. If the College

were to make exceptions in its regulations for government agencies, it would be accepting the values of society uncritically, compromising its academic independence.

At Middlebury, every student is recognized as an equal citizen within the community, regardless of race, sex, or national origin. If an outside organization wishes to be granted the privilege of recruiting Middlebury seniors on the campus, it must recognize all the students as equal, as well.

On the question of C.I.A. and N.S.A. recruitment of seniors on the campus, the College should exercise its prerogative to say no, to protect its interests as an institution of liberal education.

Indeed, Middlebury students should not be denied the opportunity to seek employment with the Central Intelligence Agency. We concur with Ted Truscott's opinion that students "are old enough to make up their own minds" on the choice of their employers. However, this does not mean that the College should facilitate active C.I.A. and N.S.A. recruitment of seniors on the campus. An informational session, open to all students, might be more appropriate.

Thus, we urge the Community Council to commission an investigation of the current status of the intelligence agencies on campus. Rosenberg is probably not the only Middlebury professor to be approached by the C.I.A., and others may not have rejected the agency's offer as Rosenberg did. An accurate assessment of the intelligence agencies's influence at Middlebury is critical to both the preservation of an uninhibited academic atmosphere at the College, and to the formulation of an appropriate policy governing the relationship between the agencies and the College.

This is an issue demanding the immediate attention of the College community. We believe that it is an issue which should be resolved in a manner consistent with Middlebury's interests as a liberal arts institution, and that it is an issue that should be resolved quickly.